

March 17, 1978

LB 623, 623 A, 725, 961

all provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB 725 pass with the emergency clause attached. All those in favor vote aye. Opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read record vote found on pages 1348 and 1349 of the Journal.) The vote is 43 ayes, 0 nays and six not voting.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: LB 725 passes with the emergency clause attached. We will now revert back to Senator Barnett's suggestion and Senator Warner's acquiescence to LB 623 A for purposes of, I believe, the Lamb motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Lamb moves to return LB 623 A to Select File for specific amendment. The amendment reads as follows: (Read Lamb amendment found on page 1349 of the Journal.) That's offered by Senator Lamb.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Speaking to the motion to return, the Chair recognizes Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as you know LB 623 is based on a Minnesota law and Nebraska and Minnesota are the only, well, Minnesota is the only state which currently has this sort of a spouse abuse statute and so in comparing the bill, 623 with the Minnesota statute, I find that there are many things in 623 that I consider to be better than the Minnesota law. However, Minnesota does have some language in its bill which restricts the amount of the funds which can be used for administrative costs, therefore insuring that the major part of the money is used for actual services to the abused spouses. So I have had this amendment drawn up to apply similar language to LB 623 A. I noticed in one of the budget bills that we advanced yesterday, LB 961, there is similar language. On page two of that bill this refers to administrative costs. The statement is: "Administrative costs shall not exceed 10% of the amount charged for postage." This is a directive to the Director of Administrative Services. So I submit that this amendment is certainly in order and it will not delay the bill. It will not delay the bill now because of Senator Warner's motion which is holding up these A bills anyway. I request that you add the amendment.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I arise to oppose the amendment that Senator Lamb is offering. Two or three reasons why and if Senator Lamb will pay attention I think I've got a question or two that might help clear up the matter. I don't imagine that I would really object to the fact of limiting personnel or administrative services in a program that was already under way, but this is for the implementation of the program and this is for the implementation of a grave concern to many people across the State of Nebraska. I think if you would look at the amount of money that's in the program and then figure out what 15% of it would be, you would almost find that it's impossible to set the program up with any kind of sincerity across the state. Senator Lamb has had concern that the Welfare Department needs to be restrained and tied down a little bit when it comes to the new program. I think we as a Legislative body and as a Judiciary Committee set out